— Information Technology Act 2000 has provisions to deal with unauthorised copying of software.

— To create awareness, Government has been supporting antipiracy campaign of NASSCOM.

— Instructions have been issued to Government Departments to use the legal copy of the software.

— Custom duty on Software has been made zero.

— Government has set up a Copyright Enfocement Advisory Council.

— Organisation of seminars/workshops to create greater awareness about Copyright law among the enforement personnel and general public.

— Creation of separate cells in police headquarters to deal with the problem.

As a result of the above measures, there is an increasing awareness amongst computer software developers about this menace.

Employment Through I.T. Modes

3343. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a plan to secure the objective of fully local employment to people especially in hilly and remote backward areas lik Uttarkhand by way of Information Technology modes, such as cyber cafes, teleworking, on-line transcription etc.,

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken and are being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The workshop on the ""Role of Science and Technology in the Integrated Development of Uttarakhand" which was held during April 21-23, 2000 at Koshi-Katarmal, Almora covered a wide range of issues for integrated development of the region through Science & Technology intervention namely (i) Georesources (ii) Bio-resources (iii) Infrastructure and Technological Interventions and (iv) Socio-economic aspects. An important objective of the plan of integrated development is fully employment and high quality environment.

As a follow up measure a Steering Committee has been set up to evolve a Mission Mode project based on the recommendations of the said workshop and suggest ways means for interation, coordination and resource mobilization.

A decision has also been separately taken by the Government to set up Community Inforamtion Centres (CICs) with full Internet Connectivity in all the blocks of the Uttrarakhand region along the lines of a similar decision taken for North-East and Sikkim in January, 2000.

India's Effort to Become Super Power In It Sector

3344. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be Pleased to state:

(a) whether India is making efforts to become a Super Power in the field of Information Technology;

(b) whether I.T. industry witnessed a 38 percent growth to touch Rs.33,052 crore in 1999-2000 according to the survey conducted by Dataquest;

(c) if so, which are the five biggest companies (rank-wise) emerged as top groups in I.T. industry during 1999-2000 and which made significant contributions towards total I.T. revenue; as well as to compete with other countries of the world; and

(d) what efforts are being made to make the I.T. useful to the public in general and to popularise it in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Government has a vision to make India a Super Power in the area of Information Technology by 2008.

(b) As per information available with the Government computer hardware and software industry registered a growth of 45.5% during the year 1999-2000 over the the previous year to reach a level of Rs.26,850 crores. The growth projections in the survey conducted by the "Datequest' have been placed at 38% to touch Rs.33,052 crores. The difference in the two figures is because the survey conducted by Dataquest also includes industry segments like maintenance, training and others.

(c) Government has not maintained any such ranking.